

670 Doane Ave.,
Claremont, Calif.,
March 15, 1958

Frank J. Von Zuben,
Chief Engineer,
General Sanitation Services,
Texas State Department of Health,
Austin, Texas

Dear Mr. Von Zuben:

You may remember me. I'm the fellow who's doing a piece of research on the Mexican National program, particularly as it relates to health. We met at the Border Public Health Association convention in San Antonio a year ago, and had several talks in Austin immediately following that. I still remember with gratitude the kindness and cooperation you showed me.

I am writing at this time because I am informed by Dr. Hector Garcia, head of the American G.I. Forum, that the Texas State Department of Health has undertaken, or is going to undertake, a piece of research having to do with the bracero program. He was unable to give me any details beyond that. I thought perhaps you could tell me if this report is true, and if so, precisely who is conducting the research, what the focus is, etc. I'd like very much to exchange notes with the people who are involved.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Henry P. Anderson,
Research Public Health
Sociologist



State of Texas
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March 25, 1958

H-FVZ

Re: Migratory Labor
Study Project

Mr. Henry P. Anderson, Sociologist
School of Public Health
University of California
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Mr. Anderson:

This will acknowledge your letter of March 15 pertaining to the Migratory Labor Study Project that Doctor Garcia mentioned to you.

As you know, the State of Texas supplies a very large portion of the citizen migratory labor that work in many of our states. Briefly, the States of Texas and Michigan have joined hands and selected a group of 1,000 migrants that annually travel to Michigan year after year. Briefly, we are putting the group through a clinic for a clinical examination in their home county and providing each member of the family with a health record. After the migrants reach Michigan, an effort will be made to contact them, check their health records and see if some special services may be rendered the group. The project is under the direction of John Atwater, M. D., USPHS, c/o Laredo-Webb County Health Department, 1011 Hidalgo Street, Laredo, Texas. Doctor Atwater will spend several months this Spring with the group in Texas, and then follow them through to Michigan and remain with them for a similar period. The objective is not so much a screening project for communicable disease and chronic disease, but more to learn what might be accomplished for this specific group utilizing the normal facilities of local health departments.

I am sure Doctor Atwater will be pleased to work with you in any manner that he can.

The Texas Council on Migrant Labor was activated in January, and we now have an Executive Secretary permanently employed. Among other things, he is currently engaged in setting up community councils in the counties having heavy populations of citizen migrants. It is hoped that these

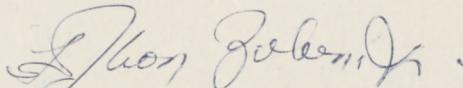
Mr. Henry P. Anderson
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*From
Convergence*

councils will solve some of the many problems associated with this special group. For instance, it is estimated that there are 12,000 citizen migrants that live in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. At least, they call Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties home, although they may live there only four months out of the year. At the same time, there are 12,000 year round jobs available in the three counties that are currently being filled by Mexican Nationals or Braceros. There seems to be a deep-seated prejudice on the part of the employers against hiring the citizen migrants and an equivalent reluctance on the part of the migrants against working on the local farms. As you can readily see, this is a generally unsatisfactory situation, and one that might eventually lend itself to a solution if the proper local migratory labor council is properly organized.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



E. J. Von Zuben, Jr.
Chief Engineer
General Sanitation Services
Division of Sanitary Engineering

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P.S. Please say hello to Professor Mangold for me.